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Anti-Bullying “Relentless Tour” to Visit Bronxville, Eastchester, Scarsdale on April 28-30

Former Michigan State University basketball player Anthony Ianni fighting bullying in schools across the nation

LANSING - The Michigan Department of Civil Rights and the Autism Alliance of Michigan today announced the Relentless Tour – a first-of-its-kind anti-bullying initiative – will visit Bronxville, Eastchester and Scarsdale on April 28-30.

Motivational speaker Anthony Ianni was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the age of 4 and was the victim of bullying as a child. His parents were told he would never go to college, never be an athlete, and would likely live in a group home as an adult.

In spite of the bullies, the adversity and the challenges, Anthony graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Sociology, and became the first known individual with autism to play Division I college basketball.

Under legendary coach **Tom Izzo**, Ianni played with the 2010 and 2012 Big Ten Champion and Tournament Championship teams, and the 2010 Final Four team. Ianni has won a number of awards including MSU’s Tim Bograkos Walk-On Award, the 2012 MSU Unsung Player Award, and was named a 2013 Detroit Pistons Community Game Changer Finalist.

Anthony Ianni Relentless Tour Schedule

Tuesday, April 28

- **Bronxville:** Ianni will be the Celebrity Assistant Coach in a basketball game at Bronxville High School, 177 Pondfield Road at 8 pm on April 28. This event is free and open to students, faculty, families and the general public as part of Autism Awareness Month.

Wednesday, April 29

- **Scarsdale:** On April 29, Ianni will speak to students at Greenvale School, 1 Gabriel Resicigno Drive in Scarsdale at 8:45 am and again at 9:30 am.
- **Eastchester:** Ianni will visit Anne Hutchinson School, 60 Mill Road, Eastchester with presentations at 10:30 am and 11:15 am. Students at Eastchester Middle School, 550 White Plains Road, will hear from Ianni at 1 pm.

Thursday, April 30

- **Eastchester:** On April 30, Anthony will speak to students at Tuckahoe Middle/High School, 65 Siwanoy Boulevard, Eastchester at 8:30 am; at W.E. Cottle School Auditorium at 9:30 am; and at Tuckahoe Middle/High School again at 1:40 pm.

Through the Relentless Tour, Ianni, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and the Autism Alliance of Michigan seek to raise awareness of autism and the problem of bullying. Students with autism are frequently targeted by bullies, with an estimated 65-90% of individuals with autism having been victims of bullying at some point in their lives.

In addition to Michigan Lt. Governor Calley and MSU Basketball Coach Tom Izzo, the Relentless Tour has generated the support of Detroit Red Wing Niklas Kronwall and former Detroit Lion Nate Burleson, all of whom are working with Ianni to spread the anti-bullying message.

"Bullying is something we must put an end to, not only in Michigan but across the country," said Ianni. "Everyone is affected by bullying in some way and students with autism are at incredibly high risk to be victimized. Our hope is that through my story and spreading our message we can not only inspire kids to take a stand against bullying but also make bullies rethink their actions."

Anthony Ianni's visit to Westchester County is taking place in conjunction with the South East Consortium for Special Services, Inc. and the Tuckahoe Union Special Education PTA.